



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY  
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WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 1879.

The certainty of taxes long ago reached the condition of a proverb. There is only one thing more certain, and that is death. But immutability, or rather invariability of duration, is a quality that has attached itself to them within a comparatively recent date, that is in this city at least. Property may be high or low; its rental value may decrease from twenty five to fifty per cent, or it may altogether cease to be a source of income and become an expense, but the taxes on it never change, or, to be more exact, they never decrease. A little idea is expressed in the words "men may come and men may go, but taxes roll on forever," but in this city they roll with a never decreasing tide. If change with them be possible, their motto would be *Excelsior*. That they are a great burden to the people, and an immense dead weight upon the rise and progress of Alexandria none know better than those most familiar with the city's affairs. Indeed, the feeling in the city respecting the taxes is pretty well expressed in the two following stanzas, which also show how the same cause will operate upon different material:

"My husband's cross as any bear,  
He won't give me a thing to wear.  
When I of him the reason ask,  
He mutters, then confounded taxes."

"My husband's good as good can be,  
Says he my love, says he to me,  
Take all you want for Heaven's sake,  
For taxes leave you none to take."

Mr. White, of Penn., in the U. S. House of Representatives yesterday objected to the introduction of a resolution, not on account of its merits, but in order, as he said, to be consistent. If similar motives influenced the whole of his side of the House, the republicans would appear in a better light. But, unfortunately for the radical members of the House, the majority of them seem to be consistent only in their inconsistency. They rave and howl about the shame and iniquity of southern claims, and then in the case of their constituents' dreadful tales of the ravaging raid-rebels are to make upon the Treasury by such claims, and yet when a vote was reached on Gen. Bragg's amendment to abolish the Southern Claims Commission, and thus prevent the possibility of the danger they pretend to apprehend, they voted against it almost to a man. If the vagaries of American politics and the impudence of American politicians had not long since ceased to afford occasions for surprise, we should wonder how the leaders of the radicals manage to deceive the rank and file of their party by any such bartered articles. That they are deceived, their votes plainly tell—at the expense, however, of their intelligence.

Washington is called by some "Little Boston." It is there, if any where, that the colored man is the so-called equal of his white brother; where the mulatto Frederick Douglass is United States Marshal and where negro policemen club intoxicated white men and drag them through the streets with "nippers" on their wrists; but for all that the qualified antipathy that is entertained by the northern white man for the negro—and that is not entertained by the southern white man, by reason of familiarity and old association—crops out on every occasion, as has just been shown by the refusal of the Washington Beneficial Endowment Association to admit a colored man to membership, though he was possessed of all the qualifications required of white men. Radicals are in favor of all sorts of equality between negroes and white men, if the latter live in the South. If they live in the North, however, or in Washington, as is exhibited in the case to which we allude, and by the social ostracism of Mrs. Senator Bruce, the case is quite different.

One of the few greenback measures that would give general satisfaction is that authorizing the convertibility of subsidiary silver coin into legal tender notes. The handling of the silver coins has become a source of great inconvenience to all sorts of business, and authority to convert them into greenbacks would be insisted in the light of a small sized blessing.

#### Railroads in Cities.

The Common Council of this of Rochester N. Y., recently ordered the enforcement of ordinances passed sixteen years ago restricting the Central Railroad from running trains faster than eight miles per hour, or blowing locomotive whistles in the city limits, switching trains on street crossings, &c. To-day the Mayor commenced the enforcement of these ordinances, and depot master Smith and several engineers will be arrested, warrants having been issued. The affair makes considerable excitement, as it is thought the movement will necessitate the removal of the depot from the city. As the matter stands the railroad company must virtually abandon its trains or submit to the continual arrests of its officials.

#### Fatal Shooting Affray.

BALTIMORE, April 16.—A shooting affray occurred in the Western section of the city this morning which resulted in the death of one of the combatants and the mortal wounding of the other. Last fall a shooting occurred between Danwood B. Hinds and a young man named James, because of the alleged seduction of Miss Lizzie James, a sister of James, by Hinds. The young man died some time since. This morning Mr. James, the father, met Hinds on Calver street when both drew their pistols and commenced firing. Several shots were exchanged resulting in the death of James and the mortal wounding of Hinds.

#### Defeated.

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 16.—The motion to reconsider the vote by which the Pittsburg riot bill was indefinitely postponed last week, was defeated in the House to-day by a vote of 161 to 98. This action defeats the bill for the present.

#### NEWS OF THE DAY.

The subscriptions to the four per cent. refunding certificates since 1st of April have been \$1,352,710.

By a very decided majority yesterday the House of Representatives refused to abolish the Southern Claims Commission.

Two children of Wm. Neal, of Gloucester, Ontario, were poisoned yesterday from eating wild parsnips. One has died, and the other cannot recover.

Every alternate E. F. saving station on the New Jersey coast was closed for six months yesterday at noon and the crews disbanded. The others will be closed May 1.

The London Standard says that a royal commission is to be appointed for the Melbourne exhibition, which it is proposed to hold next year, and that the Prince of Wales will probably preside over it.

The indications are that the election in the Sixth Congressional district of Texas yesterday resulted in the election of Upson, democrat, over Money, greenbacker, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Schleicher.

The Duke of Argyll is expected to arrive in New York soon on his way to visit his son, the Marquis of Lorne, in Canada. He designs traveling alone, both because he is an invalid and in deep affliction from the death of the Duchess.

Colonel Peyton, Executive Clerk of the Senate, is in receipt of a telegram from Senator Butler, of Charleston, S. C., announcing that Senator Hampton has started North, and may be expected to arrive in Washington at 1 P. M. to-day.

Some thirty young ladies ran away from Boston Monday to escape school; which had reopened after the spring vacation. They applied for lodgings at the police station at Hyde Park [Mass.] the same night, and were detained there for reclamation by their parents.

A resolution was offered in the lower branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature yesterday, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, providing for the appointment of a committee to proceed to San Francisco to receive ex-President Grant upon his return to the United States.

The last out-of-fashion in Vienna is the so-called "Boccaccio" stockings—a white silk stocking on the left leg and a pink one on the right. The idea was taken from the costume which Fraulein Liok—whose marriage was announced a fortnight ago—wore in the last set of Suppe's new opera.

A negro convention was held in Little Rock, Arkansas, Saturday, which appointed delegates to a conference at Nashville, May 6, favored Senator Windom's resolutions, resolved themselves into an auxiliary State emigration aid society, and having expressed a general desire to leave Arkansas, adjourned.

The New York Herald states that a gentleman registering at a hotel as Major William Tuxen, of Berlin, has made arrangements for the purchase of four thousand repeating rifles and half a million rounds of ammunition, which there is every reason to believe are intended to be landed in Africa for the use of the Zulus.

The House Committee on Agriculture has referred the entire subject of pleuro-pneumonia to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Dibble, McGowan, Hatch, Forsythe, Valentine and Lefevre, with instructions to ascertain all the facts possible in connection with the disease and report the result of their inquiries to-morrow if possible.

John Brown, Jr., son of Ossawatimie Brown, publishes a letter, in which he volunteers his services to "aid the suffering negro refugees of the South." He states that in his opinion the time has come for another grand rescue of the colored man, and although he is fifty-eight years old he is ready to devote his remaining energies to the cause.

In the United States Court at Charleston, S. C., yesterday, a verdict of guilty was rendered in the case of Kerrigan for violating the election law. Chas. Liebenrood, white, was acquitted of a charge of obstructing a United States deputy marshal. A colored democrat named Levy was tried for voting twice. The jury will probably disagree.

In Missouri the lands, buildings and shops of railroad companies, under a recent law, are to be assessed by the counties in which they are situated, while a State board of equalization is to assess the road bed at so much a mile, the county courts then to certify to its correctness, and the county through which it passes to collect the tax.

The Philadelphia Union League club gave a brilliant reception last night to Gov. Hoyt at its club rooms. Many distinguished persons were present. The Governor was escorted from the Continental Hotel to the club house by a procession of veterans, with music. The rooms were crowded during the whole evening. Grant was unanimously spoken of as President Hays's successor.

The Southern Railway and Steamship Association, at Atlanta, Ga., has adjourned to meet at Greencrier White Sulphur Springs, next August. The association adopted a resolution which re-established the old pool rates. A general desire was expressed to heal past differences, and it is believed there will be no further trouble. The pool rates had not been maintained for some time.

The tables which accompany the twenty-fourth annual report of the Baltimore Corn and Flour Exchange, show the growth of grain receipts at the port since 1858 to have been 7,753,508 bushels in that year to 41,035,905 bushels, or computing flour and meal in bushels, 48,597,477 bushels in 1878. The receipts of flour have mounted from 714,760 barrels in 1867 to 1,412,652 barrels in 1878, having thus just about doubled in eleven years.

At the conclusion of Mr. Logan's speech in the Senate yesterday, Mr. Beck took the floor, and is reported to have made the best speech delivered on either side up to this time. In his simple, plain way he painted the situation as it is, and swept completely away the mass of supposititious reasoning by which the republicans have sought to cloud and befog the real issue. He did not conclude his speech until to-day.

The Charleston News and Courier says a memorial shaft to Stonewall Jackson from the British West India Islands, received in that city about the time of the surrender, was taken possession of by a United States officer and forwarded to Washington. It has remained in the War Department ever since, but as the Secretary of War has no objection to surrendering the trophy, the shaft will soon reach South Carolina, the State for which it was intended.

The remains of Benjamin Singery, who died at Pittsburg two years ago, were recently dispatched for the purpose of removal to Philadelphia, where his parents are buried. He was a very heavy man, weighing over 350 pounds, but on attempting to raise the casket from the grave it was found it could not be done, owing to the great weight. On opening the casket the body was found to be a complete petrification, presenting all the appearance of a mass of yellow marble, and weighed 980 pounds.

The damage by the cyclone at Collinsville, Mo., eleven miles from St. Louis, Monday, is estimated at \$50,000. Its width was only about seventy feet. Many houses were destroyed or damaged and several persons injured, besides one killed. One of the evidences of its force was the picking up of a horse and buggy, which were carried to a height of twenty to thirty feet a distance of about fifteen rods, and dashed to the earth, the horse being crushed to a jelly and the wagon to splinters. The cemetery, just outside the town, was laid waste, nearly every tombstone being leveled to the ground.

#### VIRGINIA NEWS.

Alroy, a former noted race horse, died in Rockingham county last week.

Capt. John B. Shaver, a prominent citizen of Lynchburg, is dead.

The residence of H. C. Gregory, in Amelia county, was destroyed by fire last Saturday afternoon.

Fred. Douglas lectured in Staunton last night, to a large audience, a very large proportion of which consisted of whites.

We regret to hear of the illness of R. H. Glass, esq., editor of the Petersburg Post, but trust that he may be soon restored to health.

Carsons & Sons, of Riverton, Va., have been awarded the contract for the National Museum building in Washington.

For the past two weeks ending April 12th the number of deaths in Richmond were 15 whites and 26 colored.

"Father, the Beautiful Queen," is to be rendered at the Town Hall, in Warrenton, to-morrow evening, the proceeds to go for the benefit of the Baptist church.

The Petersburg Post says the pressure of business was so heavy upon the tobacco factories of that city, that the proprietors decided to close them on Easter.

Dr. R. Mumford Spencer, of Dinwiddie county, died of heart disease Saturday. He was on horseback when taken ill, and falling to the ground died in a few moments.

The Wytheville Enterprise says a negro woman was arrested last week upon the charge of setting fire to the house of Mr. J. B. Hester, in that county, and confessed her guilt, but was admitted to bail by a justice of the peace.

The Grand Council of Virginia, I. O. O. F. M., will kindly their annual council fire in the hunting grounds of Wyandott Tribe, in Norfolk, on the 14th Sun, 30 brackets past the clock, rising of the sun, Flower moon, U. S. D., 388.

During the past week two separate attempts have been made to break into the Colley vault, in the cemetery next to the Colley chapel in Atlantic City. The vault contains the remains of late John G. Colley and several of his family.

The Circuit Court of Fauquier county—Judge Keith presiding—is in session. Before the close of the term, the negro John Williams, who has been convicted, will be sentenced to hang for the murder of young Hirschlaw, at Warrenton Junction, a short time since.

Baccigalpa, charged with attempting to murder his wife, was arraigned in the Hustings Court of Richmond, yesterday morning. After considerable trouble a jury was obtained. The wounded woman was the principal witness. She testified to having received ten stab wounds with a knife, and that her husband then attempted to drown her in the canal.

There is considerable excitement in Fredericksburg over the death, on Saturday, of a son of Lewis C. Wilson, a large furniture dealer. The father accused his wife's stepmother of poisoning his son. He now denies making the accusation. The coroner made a post mortem examination of the body, yesterday, and sent the stomach to the State chemist, at Richmond, for analysis.

The Winchester Times says: "One morning last week, when Mr. Hill-brother went to his work at Oyer & Co.'s lime kiln, at a very early hour, he found an infant, developed in rags, which had been placed there during the night. It was a mulatto, apparently about three or four days old, and was nearly dead from exposure. Mr. H. carried it to his house, where its wants were attended to temporarily, and it was then sent to the poor's house."

A fair in the Colored Baptist church, at Salem, in Fauquier county, on Monday night broke up in a general row, in which pistols, knives, razors, and stones were freely used, but with no fatal results. Two brothers named Levy were badly cut, one of them seriously in the left breast, the other having a finger cut off. Several other persons were more or less injured by rocks or by falling out of windows in trying to escape from the building. No arrests have been made.

A novel attempt at suicide is said to have been made near Aldie, in Loudoun county, on Monday last, by Miss Nalla, daughter of a farmer, who mounted her father's horse at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and rode rapidly in the direction of Moore's mill pond. Arriving at the water's edge, she was observed by some gentlemen to dismount, dismount hurriedly, and while ground, and plunge into the pond, finding the water too shallow to drown her, where the first entered it, she waded out into the deepest part, which came up to her shoulders, and then commenced ducking her head under the water and floundering around in a very extravagant style. The gentlemen ran down to the pond and called to her to know what she was doing. She paused a moment and then continued to splash her head in the water, saying "I'm gone! I'm gone!" One of the gentlemen told her she was not gone and commanded her to come out. She then, with the aid of a fence rail held out to her, waded ashore and then fainted. She was taken in a wagon to the village of Aldie, where medical assistance was rendered, but up to 5:30 o'clock Monday evening she had not regained consciousness. The young lady's mind has been affected at times ever since the death of her mother, some two years ago.

#### Queen Victoria.

ROME, April 15.—Queen Victoria and the King and Queen of Italy will meet on Friday the 18th instant at the Royal Castle of Monza near Milan. After a walk in the park and lunch the royal party separating, will return in the afternoon to Bayona and Rome respectively. Their Italian majesties intended to visit Bayona, but there is no palace or villa there capable of accommodating the united parties and their attendants. Queen Victoria, while expressing the pleasure she would derive from a visit of King Humbert and Queen Margherita, intimated her desire to save them from inconvenience by going to meet them at Monza. Queen Victoria's visit to Italy will terminate on the 21st of the present month. She will arrive at Paris on the 24th inst., at Cherbourg on the 26th, and in England on the 26th. The statement that the Pope wrote to Queen Victoria welcoming her to Italy is declared to be unfounded.

#### The Michigan Election.

DETROIT MICH., April 16.—The official returns of the recent State election, though not complete, are sufficiently so as to make out the result. Of the 100,000 votes cast, 4,000 of the republican majority of about 4,000. Of the republican candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court, received 122,000, and Shipman, coalition, 128,000.

#### Fire.

DENNISPORT, Mass., April 16.—Dr. D. H. Ginn's drug store and laboratory were burned this morning. The loss is \$14,000, partially insured. The adjoining building occupied as a barber shop and saloon was also destroyed, loss \$2,200, partially insured. The buildings valued at \$1,800 were insured.

#### Everything Quiet at Sitka.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—The revenue cutter Oliver Wolcott arrived at Port Townsend and from Sitka and the mail steamer Columbia at Victoria. Nothing of importance had occurred at Sitka since the departure of the cutter.

#### The Stanley Court Martial.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The Stanley court martial trial was resumed to-day. Among those present at the hearing was ex-Secretary of War W. W. Belknap.

#### Incorrect.

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 16.—The report of the death of John C. Bateman, of the revenue steamer Bonwell, is not correct. He is well and on duty here.

#### FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16.—The Senate to-day resumed the consideration of the Army Appropriation bill almost as soon as the journal was read, Mr. Beck continuing his speech in it, interrupted by the adjournment of yesterday. He had a crowded gallery to hear him, and the spars seats on the floor were also filled. During his speech he said he was a friend of the army, but he would sooner see it disbanded and make the frontier depend for defense upon the volunteers of that region than that it should continue in the future, as it had been in the recent past, to be used as the radicals desired—to tyrannize over the people of the country and intimidate voters. His speech was listened to with undivided attention.

The House to-day immediately upon the conclusion of the reading of the journal commenced the oil of committees for reports. The Committee on Health reported a bill for the prevention of the recurrence of yellow fever, but the joint resolution of the Senate to effect the same purpose was adopted in its stead. The Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, reported a bill for the interchange of subsidiary coins into U. S. treasury notes, and to make subsidiary coin a legal tender for all debts under ten dollars. Mr. Conger raised the point of order that such a bill was not in order, having been reported by a committee to which it had not been referred in the usual mode, but through the petition box. The speaker ruled that a committee of the House could report upon any petition that was before them, but that whether such a bill should not rather have been reported from the committee on banking and currency the House must decide. During some remarks on the bill Mr. Stephens said the reason the bill was not reported in the usual way was because of the obstruction to the proceedings of the House by Mr. Conger last Monday. Mr. Conger took exception to that remark and advised Mr. Stephens to be more careful in the selection of his phraseology. Mr. Stephens replied that he had not said Mr. Conger had obstructed business by parliamentary methods, but reported with emphasis that that gentleman had not only caused obstruction, but had obstructed the business of the House.

Mr. Conger is a bluff and powerful looking man, while, as all know, Mr. Stephens is a helpless cripple, and as the former's tone and manner were harsh and rather overbearing, the democrats crowded around the seat of the latter as faithful classmen ready to afford him any assistance he might desire. Mr. Conger soon softened, however, and the debate went on until the termination of the morning hour, when, undecided, it had to go over under the rules.

The House then went into committee of the whole and resumed the consideration of the legislative judicial and executive appropriation bill, passing the section relating to the Southern Claims Commission without amendment and just as it appeared in the bill of last session.

The work of distributing the spoils of office at the Senate commenced in earnest this morning. The radicals say this was on the principle that when the cat is away the mice play, and first as the President has a supervising control over the appointments belonging to the Senate, the democrats have availed themselves of his absence to rush in their men, but to show that there is no foundation for this assertion it is only necessary to say that the changes made had been determined upon long ago, and that the Vice President will probably return before some, if not all of the new appointees go upon duty. There is no denying the fact, however, that though collectively the democrats are opposed to a general removal of the old officers individually they were attempting to day to build up Secretary Bach and Sergeant at Arms Bright, and Executive Clerk Peyton to appoint their special friends. Under this pressure Mr. Geddes, assistant clerk to the executive office; Messrs. McGreevy, postmaster; Fenna, keeper of stationery, and Durston, librarian, got notice this morning to quit at the end of the month. Mr. Giddens, placed in the office of the Vice President, a prominent democrat from Connecticut, at the instance of Mr. Eaton. Mr. McMichael, of New Jersey, will be postmaster at the instance of Mr. Randolph, Mr. Douglas Corso, of Alexandria, and Mr. Cress, of West Virginia, have been appointed messengers, and C. R. Bill, son of Judge Hall, of Leesburg, a page.

The House Committee on the District of Columbia organized this morning. General Hunt having appointed Mr. H. O. Clappett, of Leesburg, its clerk.

Senator Hampton, of South Carolina, arrived here to-day and took rooms already provided for him by his friend Col. Peyton, near the capitol. He stood the trip remarkably well, and the first thing he did after the necessary toilet was to order a beautiful breakfast. Among the appointments sent by the President to the Senate to-day are the following:—Louis I. O'Neal, formerly of Alexandria, to be Justice of the Peace of the District of Columbia; J. M. Milton, to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the 21st District of Tennessee, and B. W. Kellogg, to be 2nd Auditor of the Treasury. The last appointment, it was expected, would have been conferred upon ex-Congressman Kistey, colored, of South Carolina.

The Committee on Elections of the Senate to-day took up the Spofford-Kellogg contested case, and heard Mr. Shellabarger, Kellogg's counsel, argue at length to prove that the case had already been examined and decided and could not be reopened.

Mr. Linden Kent, formerly of Alexandria, one of the counsel for the appellants in the case of Uman et al. vs. Moore, involving the title to 150 acres of land in McDowell Co., W. Va., delivered an able argument in the Supreme Court to-day.

The House Committee on Elections commenced the consideration of the Iowa contested election case to-day, the decision of which will depend altogether upon the legality of the day upon which the election was held.

Secretary of State Evans, with one exception of the recommendation of Col. Mosby, Consul to Hoaz Kong, appoint Mr. Will Brooke, esq. of James V. Brooke, esq., of Warrenton, Vice Consul at that port, the salary of which is \$15,000.

Commissioner Rann, of the Internal Revenue, in consideration of the desirability to which the family of George W. Lash, of Alexandria, would be reduced if said Lash were prosecuted for the infraction of the Internal Revenue laws of which he is guilty, has consented to stop the proceedings that were commenced in his case with the express understanding that Lash shall quit the manufacture of cigars at once and never commence it again.

It is understood here that the late report about Col. Mosby's refusal to adopt the regulation dress upon state occasions at Hong Kong is without the slightest foundation. The colonel ordered a suitable wardrobe as soon as he arrived, has appeared in it on several occasions, and has dined with the Governor. It is also said that the Colonel is looked upon by the captains of the American ships there as their savior from the outrageous impositions exacted of them under the pretext of the war, and that he is referred to probably by his origin in the brain of some one whose fraudulent gains have been brought to an end by the reform the colonel has established in the consulate.

Dr. Mary Walker is anxious to lecture in Alexandria, and would be glad to do so. It is said, refuse to let her have a unless she will guarantee them against loss.

#### The Negro Exodus.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 16.—Thirty well-to-do negroes left Robertson county to-day for Kansas, and being the largest number that has gone from Tennessee at any one time for three years. Laborers in this State average \$10 per month, with board, and \$15 without. Better class negroes are opposed to emigration to Kansas because they think they are afforded better facilities for intellectual and education in this State.

#### CONGRESSIONAL.

Reported for the Alexandria Gazette. WASHINGTON, April 16. SENATE.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the Army bill, and

Mr. Beck continued his remarks from yesterday.

Mr. Beck said the democrats were determined on their first access to power to repeal laws passed in time of war unsuitable to time of peace and forming dangerous precedents which would become fundamental principles of our system of government if left alone. He quoted freely from historical authorities to show the pernicious results of military interference with civil functions and to refute the assertion of Mr. Hear that money had not been withheld by the Commons to force the King's consent to legislation. He said republicans had passed too many objectionable laws when in power to raise now with effect the cry of revolution. He cited the law which requires the concurrence of more than a quorum of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional, and referred to the means by which southern States had been declared not in the Union even after their votes had been accepted as confirming the constitutional amendments. Rather than have the army used as it had been and might be again he would vote to disband it, arm the frontiersmen for their own protection and establish a militia, which Jefferson had said was the best protection for the people in time of peace and in the first stages of war.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Under the call of committees this morning Mr. Stephens, of Ga., chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, reported a bill for the interchange of subsidiary coin for legal tender money in sums of \$10 and multiples thereof, and making such coin a legal tender in all sums not exceeding \$20.

The report of the committee states that the bill is based upon petitions referred to the committee.

Mr. Conger, of Mich., raised the point of order that no bill on the subject had been referred to the committee, and that therefore the committee had no right to make the report.

The morning hour expired before any action was taken on the bill reported from the committee and it went over until to-morrow.

Some annoyance was shown by the members of the Committee on Banking and Currency that the petitions on which the bill had been based had not been referred to that committee. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislative Appropriation bill.

After some discussion the amendment to repeal, after March, 1880, the acts creating the Southern Claims Commission, and to transfer to the Court of Claims all cases then pending before the Commission, was rejected.

#### NOTE.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections to-day commenced the hearing of argument in the Spofford-Kellogg case upon the question whether or not the action of the Senate in electing Kellogg was a usurpation of judicial power. Ex-Congressman Shellabarger began an argument in maintenance of this proposition, and will be further heard to-morrow.

THE DECLINE OF SPURGEON.—It is not only in political life that veteran figures become feeble. Last Sunday Charles Spurgeon appeared in the tabernacle in place of his distinguished father and conducted the services. The most eloquent of Baptist preachers is in the far south seeking health and longing to return to his native land as an orderly as others long to leave it for his region of sunshine. That he has a son old enough to appear in his pulpit is a reminder that London can hardly look forward to such a complete recovery of the father as will enable him to continue the large work with which he has been so long associated. Nor is there visible on the Baptist horizon any light that promises to lead onward his movement. The failure of Mr. Spurgeon's strength is a calamity. It is not as an orator that he is so much needed; great as his natural gifts are in that regard he has several equals in this metropolis, but the institutions of education, charity, gymnastics for the poor, have had his large, warm heart engrossed as their motive engine. He has fairly won such a name for honesty, he has run up such a fund of credit that it is probable hundreds would trust him with pounds where they would confide shillings to others. His schools for the poor were started long before there was any national system of education and now that there are so many excellent board schools those which he established are of little importance; but the same quantity cannot be felt concerning the fate of the various schemes he has been the means of providing for the poor and which have all grown up in obedience to the actual needs of the swarming population of Southwark, that borough of which so little is said but which contains as many inhabitants as New York.—*Al. D. Conway, in Baltimore Gazette.*

A BACHELOR WITH A NEEDLE.—An effort is being made to introduce needle work into the New York public schools. It is proposed that boys as well as girls should be taught how to sew. The idea is an excellent one, and should be immediately carried into execution. Any one who has seen an old bachelor attempt to sew on a rear suspender button without removing his pants, must certainly have feared teaching male pupils plain sewing.

The old bachelor aforesaid twists his head half off in order to locate the button, and with thumb and forefinger holds it in its place until he has located the half way through his thumb—and we are obliged to suppress his howls and vigorous remarks. A smile of triumph illumines his face when he succeeds in getting the needle through one of the eyes of the button, but it suddenly disappears as he draws the thread slowly through, and instead of sewing, he comes to a tension, hears the button fall on the floor—and he makes some more remarks until publication. He forgets to build a knot in the tail of his thread.

This neglect is soon remedied in the shape of a knot as large as a pea, and after taking a few stitches, the needle sticks amid in the eye of the button; he can neither push it through nor draw it back. He backs up against the wall, gets a leverage on the needle, and bears his whole weight upon it. Of course the needle runs into his hip to the depth of half an inch, and he makes a few hundred remarks, but we can't print 'em. By all means teach the boys plain sewing.—*Norristown Herald.*

ANECDOTE OF BEN. BUTLER.—Ben. Butler was called on by a person who wanted to have a talk with him.

"Mr. Butler," said he, "one of my neighbors comes jumping my garden gate last night and completely destroyed my flower beds. The gate was of the height required by law, and was closed. Now I wish to know whether I can obtain damages?"

"Most assuredly," replied the widow's friend.

"Well, Mr. Butler, how much?"

"Oh! about ten dollars."

"But, Mr. Butler, triphantly, 'the cow was yours.'"

"Ah!" said Mr. Butler, thoughtfully, and he looked unutterably things out of his bad eye. Then he turned to his desk, scratched off a few lines on a piece of paper and handed it to his visitor. It was in the form of an account and read as follows:

"B. R. Butler to Mr. —, Jr.: To damages caused by cow, \$10; by legal advice, er, \$15; balance due me, \$5."

"Mr. —," said Mr. Butler, softly, "you needn't hurry about the payment."—*Wash. Capital.*

#### FOREIGN ITEMS.

Greece has effected a loan in France.

St. Petersburg was again illuminated last night in honor of the escape of the Czar from assassination.

The Buenos Ayres Minister of Finance denies that there is any danger that that country will take any part in the Chili war.

The Berlin Germania (ultramontane) doubts the report of an approaching amicable settlement between Germany and the Vatican.

Special dispatches from Vienna state that Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador to England, left St. Petersburg on Monday for London to present letters of recall.